

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for publishing a first document object to users of a network, wherein the first document object is not previously available to users of the network, the system comprising:

means for creating link relationships between document objects, wherein the link relationships each identify a first document object, a second document object, and one or more link relationship attributes describing relationships between the first document object and the second document object, and the link relationships are separate from the first document object and the second document object;

a directory that stores the link relationships;

means for distributing the link relationships to the users of the network, wherein the distributing means presents references based on the link relationships; and

means for enabling the users of the network to use the link relationships to retrieve the document objects not previously available on the network.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein a user of the network creates one or more link relationships, and the same user makes the document object available to the users of the network by placing the document object on equipment electronically connected to the network.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for creating access to a first document object to users of a network, wherein the first document object is not available or not easily accessible by users of the network, the method comprising:

allowing a first user of the network to create a link relationship between the first document object and a second document object that is available to users of the network, wherein the link relationship identifies the first document object, the second document object, and one or more link relationship attributes describing relationships between the first document object and the second document object, and the link relationship is separate from the first document object and the second document object;

storing the link relationship in one or more link directories;

making the first document object accessible to the users of the network;

providing the users of the network access to the link relationship; and

enabling the users of the network to use the link relationship to retrieve the first document object, wherein the link relationship provides the users of the network with information relating the first document object to the second document object accessed by the users of the network.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing the users of the network access to the link relationship comprises providing access to the link relationship only to authorized users.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, further comprising authorizing the users of the network to perform the allowing step .

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the allowing step comprises:

a first user creating or locating a first document object not previously available to other users of the network;

the first user locating a second document object on the network wherein the second document object is related to the first document object in some manner determined by the first user; and

the first user creating a link relationship between the first document object and the second document object.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of making the first document object accessible to users of the network comprises:

transmitting a copy of the first document object to one or more servers;

determining a storage location for the transmitted first document object on one or more host computers associated with the one or more link directories storing the link relationship between the first document object and the second document object;

assigning a network address to the first document object stored on the one or more host computers;

storing the network address for the first document object in the link relationship;
and

storing the first document object on the one or more host computers.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the first document object comprises annotated commentary created by the first user regarding the second document object.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the storage location for the first document object on the one or more host computers is determined by a user of the network responsible for managing the one or more link directories storing the link relationship.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the storage location for the first document object on the one or more host computers is determined by the first user creating the link relationship.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising a step of targeting users of the network to which access to the link relationship will be provided by designating characteristics of the targeted users.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of enabling users to use the link relationship to retrieve the first document object comprises authorizing users to retrieve the first document object.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the first user is also responsible for the second document object, and the first user is identified as responsible for the second document object to other users of the network accessing the link relationship.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the users accessing the first document object are presented with the relationship created by the first user.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the network address for the first document object is stored in a network address field of a link reference to the first document object.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the created link relationship comprises a link reference including a network address containing a bookmark.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method for broadcasting a first document object to targeted users of the network comprising:

- creating a link relationship between the first document object and a second document object wherein the second document object is any document object selected by a user;

- entering one or more targeted user characteristics;

- comparing the entered targeted user characteristics to available user characteristics;

- targeting users using the comparison; and

- transmitting the first document object to the targeted users.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 further comprising means for making document objects not previously located on the network accessible to the users of the network.